

postural and dietetic treatment are of undoubted value; their action is, naturally, combined. Mothers are advised to give the children no fluid beyond a glass of milk for the evening meal, after four in the afternoon; then they are told to place blocks under the foot of the bed so that that part is raised about eight inches. The object of this is to keep the urine from coming down and irritating the neck of the bladder, and it is often very efficacious.

It is perfectly plain why the dietetic and postural treatment of enuresis should be of value; but to say the least, it is extremely difficult to see what influence the thyroid gland can have over micturition. A report coming from a man of Williams' integrity naturally warrants attention, and it is to be hoped that more experience will prove his deductions to have been well founded. It is to be earnestly desired that the coming year will see the thyroid therapy of enuresis given a very thorough trial, so that we may be able to reach a definite conclusion as to its value. Patients to whom this drug is given should be seen two or three times a week to be sure that no untoward effects are produced. Otherwise the treatment is simple, and if satisfactory, will certainly prove a boon in the therapy of a condition which until now has been very resistant to treatment.

Discussion.

Dr. Langley Porter, San Francisco: I have very little to add to this paper. The point of the communication which seems to me to be of particular value is the frequency of colon bacillus infections of the bladder and renal pelvis in children. I have nothing to add on the matter of treatment except this one practical fact, in treating an enuresis we very frequently experience that children have difficulty in urinating when taken up after going to bed. We have instructed the mothers to take these children up one hour after going to bed. It has developed that the child is taken from a warm bed and put on the cold floor, and this exposure to cold causes a reflex action and the child has to urinate again about an hour after being put back to bed. We always have these children kept in bed and given a bottle in which to urinate until such time as the condition of enuresis is remedied. With regard to the thyroid therapy it has not impressed us in the clinic and we do not expect any particular success with it, but we propose to try it for experimental purposes. Another point is that concentration of the urine is very frequently the cause of enuresis. Children are not given enough water to drink, they are given too much milk and too much sugar, meat, proteid and concentrated food in early childhood, and consequently the urine is concentrated.

Dr. W. F. Cheney, San Francisco: First of all I wish to confirm what Dr. Fleischner has said about determining the etiology of this trouble. These cases are so very common that we cannot have any routine and cannot give one plan of treatment suitable to all cases. It is absolutely foolish to plan treatment until investigation has been made as to the cause; but after having eliminated all known causes there remains the largest group of all, in which no cause is discernible. We must have some plan of treatment for this group. I will say nothing about the colon bacillus conditions, but the large group in which no tangible cause can be discovered. These cases are called a neurosis; but stating the thing a little more plainly, it is probably a hyperesthesia of the mucous membrane of the bladder. In this group of cases the plan of treatment that works most satisfactorily is first of all the limitation of fluids after four o'clock, so that the bladder will hold less fluid during the night. Secondly, the limitation of the diet at the evening meal to a small amount.

Also taking the children up after having been put to bed, has a good effect in the majority of cases. The old well tried belladonna remedy can also be given in the form of atropin and is a well established method in the treatment of these cases, and I have had excellent success with it.

Dr. E. C. Fleischner, San Francisco: In calling attention to the thyroid therapy I did so with the object of reporting our results in the clinic during the past year. I am not particularly sanguine over the results. I wish to call your attention to one point in the use of belladonna. It is preferable to give it in the form of suppositories, as it interferes very much less with the appetite and digestive system. The diversity of the treatment in this condition is great, and one hesitates to think that drugs have any great value. In Berlin these children are inverted and held up by the feet for a certain length of time each time they are brought to the clinics for the psychological effect. In the French clinics they have introduced cocain in the sacral cavity and later normal saline solution. The whole subject is important because the cases are so numerous and treated with such great difficulty. I feel that the training of these children will have more to do with the cure than any other single feature.

CRIMINAL ABORTION.*

By J. HENRY BARBAT, M. D., San Francisco.

The desire to prevent conception or to get rid of the products of conception, is as old as mankind. I do not expect to be able to change the condition of affairs as it exists at present, but I do believe that a proper exposure of the methods of the criminal abortionists, and the adoption of laws to prevent them from flaunting their dastardly vocation in the face of the public, would result in saving the lives of a large number of innocent victims, and in preserving the chastity of numerous girls. The extent to which criminal abortion is practiced in the large cities is appalling, and a visit to any of the offices of the advertising abortionists shows them to be reaping a harvest of money by duping their victims or by actually killing the unborn babies.

I am sorry to have to say that the committing of abortion is not confined to the advertiser, but is the means of livelihood of some of the so-called respectable practitioners of medicine. I have even known reputable men to send patients to well known "respectable" abortionists, and subsequently finish the job by curetting the unfortunate patient.

Those who apply for abortions are from every walk of life, from the factory girl to the millionaire's daughter; from the laborer's wife to that of the banker, no class, no sect seems to be above the prevention of conception, or the destruction of the fetus. What has produced this awful state of affairs? How are we going to remedy it?

There are two reasons why men will produce criminal abortions; first for money and second to cover up their own sins, and we find that the thirst

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for gold is the prime cause for the existence of the criminal abortionist.

There are probably fully 50% of those who apply to the professional abortionist, who are not pregnant, but who have simply gone over a few days, usually through worry. These poor creatures are meat for the abortionist, and he has no trouble in restoring the menses and collecting his fee. When a true pregnancy is present, various means are adopted to cause the destruction of the fetus; for instance, one inserts a capsule containing some irritant into the cervix, another passes a catheter into the uterus and leaves it there, another forces a piece of cord which is stiffened by means of varnish into the uterus, and more recently some of the bolder ones are emptying the uterus surgically.

Two of the latter have elaborate operating-rooms connected with their establishments, and do not hesitate to dilate the cervix and empty the uterus with a curette. They both learned their lesson in the school of experience, at the cost of many lives of their unfortunate clients. After having lost patients by their former cruder methods and almost paid the penalty with their own lives, they cast about to discover a safer and surer method of accomplishing results, and now show their clients how they sterilize their instruments and do their work; but in spite of this they still have a mortality list which is usually due to their gross ignorance of the fundamental laws of asepsis and surgery.

Why do women wish to destroy the products of conception? 1st, to hide the result of their illicit intercourse; 2nd, to avoid the trouble of raising children; 3rd, to save the cost of providing for their offspring; 4th, on account of the difficulty of finding suitable houses to live in when burdened with small babies.

We can of course understand the horrible feelings which must come over a young girl when she has been foolish enough to yield to the blandishments of some conscienceless individual, and subsequently finds that she is pregnant; but might she not have withstood the temptation had she known that no relief could be afforded in case she did conceive?

Many young couples start out with the idea that they do not wish to be burdened with a family for the first few years, and therefore seek the services of the abortionist if the wife happens to go over her period for even a few days. They have not been taught that they are ruining their future health and happiness, and that when *they* are ready to have children, it is too late, they have spoiled the combination, and conception is almost impossible. Not only has their happiness been marred, but their nervous systems wrecked. There is nothing so wearing on the nerves as improperly performed intercourse, and the couple who are fearing conception with every act, are destroying their nerves and missing much pleasure. These people need to be properly educated, and will usually take advice if the whole matter is correctly explained to them.

Many people claim that they can not afford to have children. In some cases this may be partially true, but in the majority of cases these people feel that they would have to deprive themselves of some

of the luxuries of living if they had to spend some of their money on the young ones. It is a purely selfish matter and we can rarely make these folks change their views.

A few women fear the repetition of a very difficult labor, or have been told by their accoucheur that the next baby would undoubtedly kill them. A little modern teaching usually gets these people to view the matter in the proper light.

A large number of owners of flats and apartment houses refuse to rent to families having small children, on account of the noise and damage to the walls and woodwork of their houses. This matter has been taken up by legislators in some districts and something will probably be done to prevent this most arbitrary ruling against the fortunate possessor of children, and in favor of the professional abortionist.

What means can we adopt to limit this slaughter of the innocents? First by educating the public along proper lines. Show them that the happiest people in the world are those who have large families. The consolation and happiness which is derived from a family of good children transcends all other earthly pleasures. Let me warn those who propose to stop after the first child is born, that they may be laying up stores of misery for themselves in after years. I have repeatedly seen the only child, after arriving at the age of 16 or 18 years, taken from its parents, leaving their remaining years blighted without a possible hope of having any further progeny. What a different picture is presented when there are several children remaining to comfort the parents in their old age.

I will now speak of the second and most important method of suppressing the illicit traffic in human lives. We have succeeded in causing the removal of a large number of advertisements of abortionists from the columns of our daily press, through the agency of the Post Office Department. Without advertisement the professional abortionist can not do much business, and if their income can be sufficiently crippled, some of them will seek more honorable means of making a livelihood, and a corresponding number of babies saved to the world.

The method which we pursued was one recommended by Dr. Rudolph Holmes of Chicago, and is as follows: a couple of female detectives are employed to visit the various advertising abortionists, and get them to consent to perform an abortion. An affidavit is then made and sent to the Post Office inspector who then sends a stop order to each of the newspapers in which the "ad" appeared, informing them that the papers would be refused the mails if the objectionable "ads" were not removed. This was usually effective, but like all criminals the child murderer soon found means to circumvent this order, and in a few weeks we found that Dr. G. W. O'Donnell became Dr. G. W. Olcot, and when we caught him under his new name, he further changed it to Dr. Moore. Dr. Neal became Dr. Page, then Dr. Meal, then Dr. Kaner, then Dr. Gibson. This course necessitated getting new affidavits each time, but we must not expect to clean up the criminal element in any community with one application of the remedy, and it is only by constant vigilance that we can hope to rid the country of these pests.